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B-Plus

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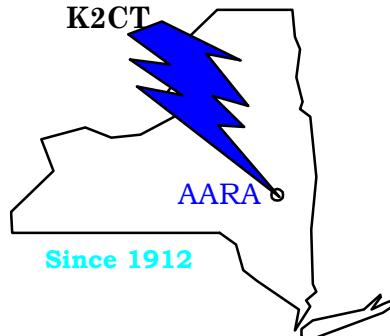
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Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League
An ARRL Special Services Club

AARA

Meets at the
Colonie Community Center
[1653 Central Ave. Colonie](#)

Friday Feb. 13

SwapMeet 7PM
Meeting 8:30 PM
Refreshments
soda, diet soda, coffee

K2CT Repeater

Talk-in repeater
145.19 (-) MHz
pl tone 100.0hz

or

444.30 (+) w/pl tone 100.0hz

FEB. Meeting

Ham Radio and Computer equipment SwapMeet

Anyone with Amateur Gear or computer equipment for sale is encouraged to bring it to the meeting for the Flea Market.

Flea Market / Swap Meet starts 7PM

AARA Meeting starts 8:30PM

AARA Dues

B-plus is Electronic

Dues are \$15 with
B-PLUS available at the K2CT Web page in .pdf format www.qsl.net/k2ct
OR \$20 for first class mailing of the newsletter Checks should be made out to AARA and sent to: Saul Abrams, K2XA, 307 Maple Rd., Slingerlands, NY 12159

Public Service:

Volunteer CONTACT John, WE2F at 283-4304

AARA WE Need YOU to Volunteer AARA

AARA Homepage
www.qsl.net/k2ct

FOR SALE: FROM: John, (N1JP)

1 Kenwood TR7400A 2 meter transceiver
Several Larson Amateur mobile antennas
1 Swan SWR-1 swr/power meter.
1 USB to Serial converter...Windows 95, 98, and 2000. Also Mac OSs
1 Simpson 260 VOM analog meter
1 Nye Viking iambic paddles
1 Keyer TTL, no memories, Speed control, 12VDC
1 Keyer 4 memories, Speed and Volume controls, 12VDC
1 M4 RigBlaster
1 2 meter, FM, TPL PA3-1FD, 15-30W in / 70 - 90W out Power Amplifier

FOR SALE: FROM: Bud, WF2B

I have a Ten Tec Omni D Model 546 with Remote VFO Model 243 and Power Supply Model 252M
Also Ten Tec Mike and overvoltage protector All for \$400. Has WARC mods -- factory
installed.
Also RF Concepts 2/70 Amp/PreAmp. Great for boosting handitalkie power.

FOR SALE: FROM: Jack, WA2YBM

I'll bring a 4 port router made by D-Link
and a 8X cd burner made by Iomega.

FOR SALE: FROM: Tom, WB2KLD

I will have assorted reasonably priced vintage test gear dating
back to 50's thru mid to late 70's.
Also (if I can get to the "supply") various components such as crystals, Caddock
resistors (for loads or attenuators), pieces/parts and whatever else I can get my paws
on.

FOR SALE: FROM: Scott--N2MQQ

I'll be bringing an HR-2510 10 meter rig and some other odds and ends. ...

S W A P S H O P

Send items to B-Plus editor, Mike, WD2AJS at wd2ajs@arrl.net or call 489-3110

LOOKING FOR: Does anyone have access to a
computer video projector?

PLEASE, Contact Guy, WK2H at 371-3008

ATTENTION HF CONTESTERS

CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT 2004 ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST

The ARRL International DX Contest is coming soon. The **CW weekend is February 21-22, and the SSB weekend is March 6-7.** Get on the air, work the piles, have some fun, and send us your scores!

Send your score(s) to us at:
sue.walt@verizon.net. See you in the pileups!

73, Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LB

LAST YEAR'S YOUNGEST GENERAL NOW THIS YEAR'S YOUNGEST EXTRA

The ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 05 Jan 30, 2004

An Oregon girl considered a year ago as the youngest General class licensee
<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/01/>



Jan 2004 meeting



31/4/> in the US now may be the country's youngest Amateur Extra ticket holder. Seven-year-old Mattie Clauson, AD7BL (ex-KD7TYN and ex-KD7SDF), of Roseburg passed her Extra examination January 14 during a Valley Amateur Radio Club

<<http://www.valleyradioclub.org/home.htm>> ARRL-VEC volunteer examination session in Eugene. The FCC granted her new ticket and Extra-appropriate call sign on January 20.



AARA name tags

can be ordered from The Maine Store. Our tag is on file with them. You can check them out at: <http://www.themainestore.com/>. They also have many other items that may be of interest.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AARA Annual Dinner

April 16, 2004
(Note, it is the 3rd Friday)

Make your dinner reservations with Bud WF2B by March 16.
\$25 per person, check made out to AARA or cash in advance.
(See him at the February meeting or call him at 283-2337 and mail check to Bud Hovey, 15 Sylvan Lane, Troy, NY 12180.)

PLACE: Shaker Ridge Country Club
(where we had it last year)

TIME: April 16, 2004 – cash bar cocktails and soft drinks at 6:00PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM.

MENU:

Soup du Jour and Shaker Salad
Potato (Garlic Smashed)
Vegetable
Dessert (German Chocolate Cake)
(Choice of entree):
1. Cranberry Harvest Chicken (boneless breast of chicken wrapped around cranberry bread stuffing)
2. Prime Rib of Beef au Jus
3. Salmon Filet (char grilled and finished with dill butter blanc)

DX-Cluster can be accessed on web at
<telnet://na2na.net>

ATVET 2004/2005

ATVET CONTACT: Nels Williams
wb2sbo@aol.com or 518-439-7357
ATVET LIAISON: Gerald Murray,
atvet@n2ty.org or 518-482-8700

New Dates coming soon

AO-40 AILING

The ARRL Letter Vol. 23 Jan. 30, 2004

Ground controllers for the AO-40 satellite are trying to figure out just what happened to cause a significant drop in the spacecraft's bus voltage, taking it off the air. The satellite remains silent in the wake of a precipitous voltage drop from around 26 volts down to 18 volts early on January 27 (UTC). AO-40 controllers are fairly certain that one or more shorted battery cells are at the root of the problem. Efforts to restart the satellite's 2.4-GHz downlink transmitter have been unsuccessful.

"Our current best understanding is that we suffered a catastrophic failure of the main battery, which is clamping the bus voltage at a low level," Stacey Mills, W4SM, of the AO-40 command team said in a posting on the AMSAT-DL Web site.

The AO-40 satellite was the result of AMSAT's ambitious international Phase 3D project. The AMSAT-NA Board of Directors met January 29 to review the current situation. "The next few weeks will be of great interest as the satellite is entering into a sun angle which is becoming increasingly favorable for charging the batteries," said AMSAT-NA President Robin Haughton, VE3FRH. Tests are under way on spare batteries in AMSAT's Orlando, Florida, lab in an effort to simulate the failure mode and determine what might be done to recover the satellite.

"At this time, AMSAT engineers and scientists are optimistic about the chances of recovering but--

B-PLUS March. deadline is Sat. Feb 28th

Are You Changing Your Address: Please contact Bill, K2BX with your address corrections: Bill Nettleton, K2BX 7 Frederick Pl., Troy, NY 12180 or e-mail at k2bx@arrl.net

like the NASA Spirit problem--this may take some time to accomplish," Haughton said.

The AO-40 ground team has been sending blind commands to the spacecraft to activate its onboard computerized control system in order to switch in the auxiliary battery bank, which was tied to the main battery bank after a bus voltage drop January 26, and disconnect the main battery.

Mills said that while ground controllers don't claim to fully understand what happened aboard AO-40, operator practices were not to blame. "AO-40 was designed to withstand all that you can throw at it," he said.

Mills explained that the main AO-40 batteries consist of 20 40-Ah cells arranged on three of the radial support arms inside the spacecraft--two packs of seven cells and one pack of six cells.

"It is entirely possible or even probable that the main batteries suffered some damage during the 400-N motor event," Mills said, referring to the onboard catastrophic incident that caused AO-40 to go dark less than a month after its November 2000 launch.

While some systems were irreparably damaged, ground controllers were able to get AO-40 partially up and running again, and the satellite's transponders have been in active use since 2001. It was subsequently determined that an anomaly involving a fuel valve essentially had caused an onboard explosion. AO-40 had been operating with 435 MHz and 1.2 GHz uplinks and a 2.4 GHz downlink and beacon.

"If it's at all possible to bring AO-40 back, we will," said Mills, who concedes that he's "lived and breathed AO-40" for more than four years. "No success for even weeks or months does not mean that we won't eventually be successful. We will sure keep trying."

edited by Mike Bergman, WD2AJS, 45 Swartson Ct., Albany, NY 12209 489-3110. **Articles** and B-PLUS **Swap Shop items** accepted and solicited via mail, phone, or e-mail to wd2ajs@arrl.net

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